

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. inspectors looking for evidence of an Iraqi nuclear weapons programme examined equipment for enriching uranium Monday. David Kay, chief inspector for the team, said the equipment has related to two of the three methods of enrichment that Iraq initially kept secret, in defiance of the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. President George Bush and Stanley Washington had held talks with its allies about the possible use of military force to make Iraq reveal all its nuclear secrets. "We were engaged in looking at the production facilities for two of their enrichment programmes," Mr. Kay told reporters after almost 15 hours in the field. "We said this was the expensive, electromagnetic, isotope separation process, the kind used by the United States to make the 1945 Hiroshima bomb." The other was the gas centrifuge process. "The equipment was produced (for inspection)," he added. Iraq admitted having a secret uranium enrichment programme after Mr. Kay and an earlier team of inspectors discovered equipment used in the process. The third method it experimented with was chemical. "The Iraqis put a lot of material in front of us and opened a lot of facilities," Mr. Kay said after the latest team split into two groups to conduct Monday's inspection.

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U.S. to sell laser-guided bombs to Saudis

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States plans to sell another \$365 million in weapons to Saudi Arabia, including highly accurate laser-guided bombs, the Defense Department said Monday. The Pentagon said the Bush administration had notified Congress of the sale, latest in a growing list of U.S. arms transfers to friends in and near the Middle East who supported the allied coalition in the Gulf war. The Saudi sale, which would become official in 30 days unless vetoed by Congress, includes laser-guided bomb components, 2,000 MK-48 bombs, 2,100 so-called "cluster" bombs and 770 AIM-7M "Sparrow" air-to-air missiles. Laser-guided bombs, which ride a beam of light from attack aircraft to ground targets, were used with devastating accuracy by allied aircraft against Iraq in the war. Cluster bombs each contain several separate explosive devices and may be used against troops, armour and enemy runways. Including Monday's announcement, the administration has in recent weeks announced plans to sell nearly \$4.2 billion in weapons to the Saudis, Turkey, Egypt, Oman and Morocco at a time when President George Bush is pressing the world to slow the arms buildup in the Middle East.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Turkish troops kill 3 Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Three separatist Kurdish rebels have been killed during clashes with security forces in southeast Turkey, local officials said Monday. Troops killed one rebel in a clash Saturday with members of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) near the town of Semdinli on the Iraqi border, the regional governor's office said in a statement. It said the bodies of two other rebels were found near the towns of Sirvan and Pervari in Siirt province after separate nighttime clashes over the weekend. More than 3,000 people including civilians have been killed in PKK attacks and battles with security forces in the region since 1984, when separatists launched a violent independence campaign.

Studies to set up nuclear reactor in UAE

ABU DHABI (AP) — In an article published Monday, an energy official argued the oil-rich United Arab Emirates should consider nuclear energy. He disclosed that feasibility studies had been made for construction of reactors. Najmuddin Hammoudi said that the two studies proved the technical and economic feasibility of constructing nuclear reactors in the United Arab Emirates as an alternate source for energy even though the country is one of the major world oil producers. Mr. Hammoudi is ambassador at the UAE foreign ministry and member of the country's National Energy Committee. UAE oil reserves are estimated at about 100 billion barrels.

Iraqi Kurdish leader in Britain

LONDON (R) — A prominent Iraqi Kurdish leader said Monday he had come to Britain to seek British government protection for Kurds in Iraq and support for Kurdish autonomy. "I am here to seek protection for the Kurdish people," Jalal Talabani, joint leader of the Iraqi Kurdish Front coalition of Kurdish groups, said in a statement. "I am also seeking the support of the British government ... for our programme of democracy for all Iraq and autonomy for Kurdistan." Mr. Talabani, who is also head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), arrived in Britain two days ago and is due to meet Prime Minister John Major Tuesday.

Fire engulfs Tehran's old bazaar

NICOSIA (AP) — A fierce fire engulfed the central part of Tehran's Grand Bazaar Monday, state-run Tehran Radio reported. The radio said the blaze was brought under control seven hours later. It did not say what the damage was. The Grand Bazaar is a sprawling warren of scores of narrow covered alleys constantly crowded with jostling shoppers and porters pushing wheelbarrows heavily laden with merchandise. The bazaar is divided into specific sections. Shopkeepers sitting cross-legged in their open-fronted shops offer wares ranging from jewelry to spices and foodstuffs, carpets, clothing, shoes, household goods, tools and a multitude of other items.

Former guerrilla takes power in Pakistan-ruled Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (R) — Former guerrilla leader Sardar Abdul Qayum took power in Pakistani-ruled Kashmir Monday after controversial elections which his opponents say were rigged. Mr. Qayum, 67, took the oath as prime minister of the territory called Azad (Free) Kashmir in the state capital of Muzaffarabad. He ignored protests from opponents who say regional elections last month were massively rigged. The official APP news agency quoted Mr. Qayum as saying in a speech to the legislative assembly that India should immediately stop its "undeclared war against Pakistan and Kashmiris." It was a reference to India's crackdown against separatist militants fighting its rule over two-thirds of Kashmir.

Focus turns to Mideast on eve of Moscow summit

Soviets strike a warning note, call for peace conference before end of this year

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Middle East seized the lightning on the eve of a superpower summit with the Soviet Union calling Monday for a peace conference between Israel and the Arabs before the end of the year.

As U.S. President George Bush headed for Moscow for a summit billed as the first of the post-cold war era, Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh said any further delay on Middle East talks could throw up fresh obstacles.

Mr. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will sign a landmark strategic weapons treaty, but for once the focus looks set less on arms control than on solving regional crisis and helping the Soviet Union out of its economic malaise.

Mr. Bessmertnykh issued a warning on the Middle East to both a reluctant Israel and an optimistic United States, saying that if the conference was pushed back until 1992 "certain problems can arise."

He was quoted by TASS news agency as telling reporters before holding talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the time was ripe to bring Israel and the Arabs together for their first direct talks in four decades of

conflict.

Israel, under pressure to accept U.S. terms for peace talks already agreed to by Arab states, said Monday it would wait until Mr. Baker returned to the Middle East after the summit in a bid to break deadlock over who represents the Palestinians.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Bessmertnykh had met for an hour. Earlier, Mr. Bessmertnykh told reporters he would consider going to the Middle East with Mr. Baker, if that might produce progress in setting up a conference.

When asked if there would be a joint trip, Mr. Baker said: "We did not take a decision..."

"I'm not prepared to speculate on that. We've got a lot more talking to do," he said.

Mr. Baker told reporters there was "a degree of convergent views, and we'll be discussing with our respective presidents."

Speculation has faded that Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev could announce a time and venue for the conference although Soviet officials said they were still hopeful.

Mr. Baker in his talks with Mr. Bessmertnykh said the window of opportunity for Middle East peace was still open "but we need

good will and good faith on the part of those directly concerned if we are going to take advantage of this."

Kremlin spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said earlier that the issue of peace in the Middle East was expected to be "further pursued here in Moscow."

Asked whether Mr. Gorbachev thought a peace conference should be convened soon, Mr. Ignatenko replied, "of course, the convening of this conference is timely. The time is ripe."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said that a peace conference "is going to be discussed by the two ministers, and of course it is going to be discussed quite thoroughly by the two presidents, and they are going to make that decision," on whether to issue invitations to a peace conference.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat sent a message Sunday to President Gorbachev stating his organisation's stance on Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

The agency said Mr. Arafat also sent a message to Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh, in response to an "important" mes-

sage he received from Mr. Bessmertnykh the previous day.

Palestinian leaders have been meeting in Tunis since Wednesday to consider their response to the U.S. plan for a conference.

Jamal Al Sourani, secretary-general of the PLO Executive Committee, said Sunday that Palestinians would boycott talks unless Washington and Moscow sent the PLO a formal invitation.

Mr. Baker arrived in Moscow hours before Bush flew in for the two-day summit. The formal centrepiece will be the signing of a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), slashing superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles and bombers.

The two leaders hope the treaty will mark the end of 40 years of frenetic military competition, leaving them free to cooperate on sorting out the world's trouble spots and turning the Soviet Union into a democratic, free-market state.

"This is the first post-cold war summit in a sense," Mr. Bush told reporters in Washington Sunday.

START, a complex document of some 600 pages crafted by negotiators in Geneva over the

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Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayya with her fiancé Nasser Sami Joudeh (Petra photo)

Princess Sumayya to wed Nasser Joudeh

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayya, daughter of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was engaged Monday to Nasser Sami Joudeh, the Royal Court announced. The announcement said the engagement took place in the presence of His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and members of the Royal family. The engagement was also attended by Prime Minister Taher Masri, Dr. Sami Joudeh and members of the Joudeh family.

Shamir awaits Baker's visit to remove 'obstacles' to peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday that Israel had not accepted an invitation to a peace conference, but he thinks the remaining obstacles could be removed during another visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"It depends on what is written. I don't think that invitations will be sent without first talking about them to those invited," he said on the radio.

Mr. Shamir's comment came shortly after Foreign Minister David Levy said he expected Mr. Baker to return for a sixth Middle East peace shuttle "in the next few days."

However, Mr. Levy did not specify when Mr. Baker might arrive, and Mr. Shamir did not make a definite statement on the secretary's plans in his remarks to an Israel Radio reporter.

"If, for example, Mr. Baker comes in the coming days, I suppose that it will be possible to conclude during his visit all the things which are delaying opening the conference," Mr. Shamir said.

He added: "In our opinion it is possible to conclude them, but we of course will have to talk to others."

But Israel, before offering a formal response, is waiting for Mr. Baker to first provide a list of Palestinian delegates that would exclude anyone from Arab Jerusalem or with connections to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Shamir again ruled out negotiating with Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem.

The question of who should speak for the Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied territories has become Mr. Baker's biggest hurdle.

"There is no room for compromise on this issue," Mr. Shamir told reporters.

He said Israel wanted answers from Mr. Baker about the composition of the Palestinian delegation. If the list was acceptable a conference could take place soon, he said.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, questioned by ABC-TV on Sunday on whether Israel has accepted the U.S. initiative, responded: "At this stage of the game, I consider that to be no more than a formality."

But Israel, before offering a formal response, is waiting for Mr. Baker to first provide a list of Palestinian delegates that would

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Amnesty calls on Israel to end torture of Palestinian detainees

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International urged Israel Tuesday to end what it called the routine torture and ill-treatment of Palestinian detainees and said it was disturbed at reports of secret official endorsement of physical abuse.

The human rights group said detainees were regularly hooded with dirty sacks and deprived of food or sleep, usually by being shackled in painful positions, while held in solitary confinement. They are also frequently beaten all over their bodies, including on their genitals, and held in rooms so small and dark detainees call them "coffins" or ones so cold they are called "refrigerators." This is done to punish or to extract information or confessions.

The human rights organisation said it had serious concerns about the entire process — right from the time a suspect is arrested to when the case is eventually closed — under which thousands of Palestinian civilians are tried every year. Some have been tried for non-violent political acts such as raising the Palestinian flag.

In releasing its report about the trials of civilians in these military courts, the organisation said one of its key criticisms was the long period people spend incommunicado detention following arrest.

People can be held in prisons or police stations for up to 18 days without being brought before a judge and their lawyers and relatives are often not allowed to see them for much longer periods — which creates conditions for both arbitrary arrest and torture or ill-treatment.

"There is clearly a pattern of torture or ill-treatment in Israel and the occupied territories," Amnesty International said. "Detainees are particu-

larly vulnerable to such treatment when they are cut off from the outside world."

Detainees are systematically hooded with dirty sacks and deprived of food or sleep, usually by being shackled in painful positions, while held in solitary confinement. They are also frequently beaten all over their bodies, including on their genitals, and held in rooms so small and dark detainees call them "coffins" or ones so cold they are called "refrigerators." This is done to punish or to extract information or confessions.

"What's extremely disturbing is that there are actually secret official guidelines allowing 'moderate physical pressure' during interrogation," Amnesty International said. These guidelines were initially formulated by a commission of inquiry into interrogation practices headed by Justice Moshe Landau and endorsed by the government 1987.

"We believe either that the government endorses these interrogation practices, which amount to torture or ill-treatment, or that interrogators have been routinely violating official guidelines as well as international standards which prohibit all torture and ill-treatment," Amnesty International said. "Either way, the government needs to urgently address the problem, including by publishing the secret guidelines."

Concerns about torture and ill-treatment are closely tied to the fairness of trials, since con-

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Clandestine group to go on public trial

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of a clandestine group arrested by the security forces will be tried at the state security court on charges of committing several attacks and acquiring firearms for the purpose of assassinating Jordanian and foreign personalities, Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shouli said Monday.

The crimes committed by the group are considered as directed against national security and therefore the cases will be tried by the state security court in line with the existing laws in the Kingdom," Mr. Shouli told Jordan Television.

The minister said the process of interrogating the suspects was

almost over and the trials could begin in the next two weeks. Jordan Television showed a cache of arms and ammunition, hand grenades and explosives seized by the security forces from the group.

The authorities said last week that the group, which went under the name "Holy Warriors in the Name of God" and "The Prophet Mohammad's Army," was responsible for two car bomb attacks which seriously injured a police officer and a 12-year-old girl as well as bomb attacks on banks and other targets.

NEW YORK grand jury, Fed launch moves against BCCI

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A New York grand jury returned an indictment charging that the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and two of its founders engaged in a multi-billion-dollar scheme to defraud its depositors, state prosecutors said Monday.

New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said that the indictment named Agha Hasan Abedi, who founded the bank in 1972, and Swaleh Naqvi, who is the bank's chief operating officer until October 1990.

The Federal Reserve meanwhile announced it was seeking a \$200 million fine against BCCI and an order barring nine people tied to the bank from involvement with U.S. banking organisations.

The Fed said its announcement came as Mr. Morgenthau disclosed the indictment of BCCI on charges of defrauding investors, falsifying records and stealing more than \$50 million.

"This indictment spells out the largest bank fraud in world financial history," Mr. Morgenthau said.

The Fed said its enforcement proceeding is "based on evidence of secret arrangements that were"

made between senior officials of BCCI and customers of BCCI."

"These arrangements were designed to allow BCCI to acquire, in the names of these customers, shares of Credit and Commerce American Holdings NV, which is the parent company of First American Bankshares, Inc., Washington, D.C., the National Bank of Georgia and Centrus Savings Bank," the announcement said.

The Fed said the secret arrangements included loans to customers to purchase shares of the companies, which the customers would not be required to repay.

BCCI was given authority to sell the shares and retain any profits, the announcement said.

"In return the customers received indemnities and fees for their participation in the transactions."

The Federal Reserve announcement, coupled with the New York indictment, follows the seizure of BCCI offices around the world on July 5 in the midst of allegations of fraud and drug money laundering.

The council last Thursday began examining a proposal for such a resolution, but U.N. diplomats suggested it would not be ready for a vote before the end of August.

The defendants in the New York indictment are charged with first-degree scheme to defraud

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Paris to push for urgent easing of Iraq sanctions

PARIS (Agencies) — France planned Monday to undertake consultations with fellow U.N. Security Council members on urgently easing the embargo against Iraq to end shortages of food and medicine.

Aid agencies and journalists working in Iraq have reported widespread malnutrition among Iraqi children less than a year old.

The council has been reluctant to consider easing the sanctions while suspicions remain that Iraq is not adhering to Gulf war ceasefires accords demanding the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction.

The United States has threatened to renew a bombing campaign against Iraq to destroy remaining sites used in Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

A U.N. inspection team that arrived in Baghdad over the weekend is to inspect such sites and determine whether Iraq is complying with the ceasefire agreement.

Post offices to accept university applications

AMMAN (J.T.) — Students who passed the tawjih examinations this year with at least a 65 per cent average crowded Monday at post offices to fill out applications to enrol at one of the four government universities in Jordan.

The Post Offices and Postal Savings Corporation had earlier announced that 40 post offices in Jordan had been assigned to handle the applications and to issue forms to the students for a JD 15 fee.

During the week-long process, the post offices will forward the application forms to the concerned universities to be processed before the lists of accepted students can be announced.

GUVS, Lebanese organisations agree to seek greater cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and non-governmental charity organisations in Lebanon have signed a memorandum of understanding organising coordination and cooperation between the two sides, according to GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib.

Dr. Khatib said that the move was one step towards the establishment of the projected federation of non-governmental Arab organisations.

The memorandum provides for the exchange of expertise and information related to social development, voluntary activities and social welfare. It also calls for visits by voluntary and social service workers to either country to

coordinate humanitarian activities and work in voluntary and social fields. Dr. Khatib said in a statement following his return to Amman from Beirut.

He said that the two sides had agreed to hold periodic biannual meetings in Amman and Beirut to monitor and examine the voluntary and social services process and to work out joint plans of action.

Dr. Khatib attended a general meeting by Arab voluntary and charitable organisations in the Lebanese capital where it was agreed that a survey of all such organisations in the Arab World be conducted. Also, agreement was reached for Arab organisations to attend an international conference by non-governmental bodies to be held in Miami, U.S.

Longtime Jordanian journalist laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of the late Ibrahim Sakijha, a noted journalist who died in Amman of a heart attack, was laid to rest Monday after a funeral at the University of Jordan mosque. His Majesty King Hussein delegated Minister of Information and Culture Khaled Karaki to attend the funeral in Sweileh and to convey his condolences to the bereaved family and to the Jordan Press Association (JPA).

Taking part in the funeral were ministers, Members of Parliament, JPA members, directors of information services and relatives of the late Mr. Sakijha.

Mr. Sakijha had worked for three Arabic dailies, Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shabab.

Mr. Sakijha was born in the city of Jaffa, Palestine, in 1926 and started his career in 1946. He had been an active writer and columnist until last April when he was forced to retire due to ill health.

Local journalists and columnists paid tribute in their articles to Mr. Sakijha.



Ibrahim Sakijha

In an obituary on his death, Chief Editor of Al Ra'i daily Mahmoud Al Kayed said that the late Mr. Sakijha was the true model of dedication and a servant of his country and nation. He said that Jordanian journalists would always remember Mr. Sakijha for his efforts and his services.



Family and friends attend the funeral of Ibrahim Sakijha (photo by Yousef Al 'Alian)

CONDOLENCES

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing away of veteran journalist Ibrahim Sakijha.

Father of their friend and colleague Basem Sakijha. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

May his soul rest in peace

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Handicraft exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Radio call prompts King to act and help infants

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has instructed the director general of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, to purchase from foreign markets sufficient quantities of a special type of milk, now lacking in the Jordanian markets, for infants and contacted the Health Ministry to ensure that such commodity is made available as soon as possible.

Sources had predicted that the four universities — the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Mutu University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology — will accept a total of 8,840 students for the coming 1991-92 academic year.

Out of about 63,000 tawjih students only 51.9 per cent had passed this year. Not all of them are liable to be admitted to any university, but can enrol at community colleges.

The King's directive followed an appeal by the father of the infants through a call-in radio programme.

The man was reported to have urged the government to make available types of milk needed by infants lest they be exposed to malnutrition or die.

RJ Chairman Abu Ghazaleh called Radio Jordan for more details about the complaint and promised that RJ planes would bring in the needed amounts of milk.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh's call fol-

lowed that by King Hussein, who assured the radio programme that he was concerned and that a solution would be found soon.

The needed milk is called Isomil and, according to pharmacies in Amman, the local markets do not have this milk which used to be imported from the United Kingdom.

Pharmacy sources told the Jordan Times that the Health Ministry and a Jordanian agent were at odds about pricing the new shipment of Isomil milk brought in from other countries. Also quantities were found in a warehouse awaiting settlement to the pricing dispute.

They said that in a few days' time the market should have sufficient quantities provided the dispute had been settled.

Isomil, a special type of milk given to infants with allergies, used to be brought in from Britain. But the practice stopped after the appearance of cattle

diseases in British farms, the sources said.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, a number of Jordanian expatriates living abroad called Radio Jordan offering to supply the required quantities of milk free of charge through offices abroad.

Petra said the King had told the Health Ministry that such types of milk should be considered as medicine rather than a type of food.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh has made contacts with RJ offices abroad to secure the required milk as soon as possible and, according to RJ sources, the first consignment will arrive here Tuesday. Mr. Abu Ghazaleh said that RJ planes would be shipping four tonnes of this type of milk free of charge until the local markets are stocked.

He said that as the shipments are free, the price of this commodity should be lower than normal.

RJ to lease plane to Bolivia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, announced Monday that it was leasing one of its Airbus 310 planes to the Bolivian national airlines for two months.

Under the agreement with the Bolivian Airlines the latter will also hire the crew for the plane for each flight, but RJ will continue to be responsible for maintenance work.

According to the statement, the Bolivian airlines will operate the RJ plane on its network in central and southern American area and to Miami, Florida, in the U.S.

RJ Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh said last month that RJ was keen on constant

modernisation of its fleet of aircraft and leasing aircraft is one of the options open to the airline, like to all other airlines depending on expansion and modernisation plans.

But he denied that RJ was contemplating the idea of returning a number of its planes due to the current economic recession.

In another development, Monday RJ announced that it had concluded a training course, at its training department, for 96 pilots, co-pilots and engineers employed by the Turkish airlines. Training was done on Airbus planes at the Simulator Division at the Queen Alia International Airport.

The Turkish Airlines had expressed the desire of sending its air pilots trained with RJ for two years, for at least 1,000 flying hours, as of October 1991, the statement noted. It said that the Turkish Airlines were contemplating the idea of offering this training to 140 of its staff and engineers.

The simulator training of non-Jordanian pilots earned RJ \$1.3 million in 1990, according to RJ officials.

They said that pilots trained at the simulator came from Turkey, France, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Germany and Nigeria. At present, they added, there are new contracts for training Tunisian and Algerian pilots.

Ministry considering setting up centre for training in electrical field

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply is considering setting up a national training centre to offer services to the national economy, especially by training Jordanians in the electronic and electrical fields. Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb announced Monday.

"Such ideas and endeavours to open new markets abroad for Jordanian national products will be two main concerns for the ministry which plans to cooperate in this enterprise with the private sector," the minister said at a meeting in his office with the Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan and board members.

The minister emphasised the need for full cooperation between the Chamber of Industry and the Ministry of Industry to open new markets abroad, get jobs for skilled Jordanian workers and maintain quality control over all products.

Discussion at the meeting covered all fields where the chamber and the ministry can cooperate, with the minister stressing the fact that both parties should equal shares, in promoting industry and bolstering the Jordanian economy.

Mr. Abdul Ragheb said that the government planned to facilitate government routine procedures, create an appropriate climate for investments, increase and improve opportunities for Jordanian workers and boost the Economic Consultative Council's role to become partner in the decision-making process.

The government plans to introduce new laws on investments, imports and exports, the Jordanian Chamber of Industry and a law on guarantees for exports, the minister announced.

Mr. Abu Hassan presented to

the minister a number of demands and pledged the chamber's full cooperation with the government to safeguard national interests. He demanded that the government conduct immediate contacts with other concerned nations and international organisations, through diplomatic means, to stop harassment of ships in the Red Sea and delays of vessels heading towards the port of Aqaba.

Mr. Abu Hassan announced that Jordanian trade delegations would soon embark on visits to several countries in Asia and the Middle East with the purpose of opening new markets for Jordan's products.

He also demanded that Jordan start serious efforts towards ending inter-Arab differences, especially with the Gulf states and Jordan's partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), with a view to opening the door for Jordan's trade.

RSS project aims to develop sand moulding technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) currently embarks on a project aiming at utilising Jordanian sands and binding materials such as bentonite or resins as raw materials for the foundry industry. The project is also intended to develop the sand moulding technology in Jordan.

Sand moulding is responsible for many casting defects which pose real technical problems. Poor sand moulding technology is responsible for a loss of up to \$3 million in foreign currency a year.

This project is financed through a joint agreement between RSS and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. The time needed for the completion of the project is estimated at two years. Actually, it has been in progress since August 1990. Its objectives could be summarised as follows:

1. To collect and evaluate use green and shell sand samples.

2. To build up the Jordanian expertise in sand field and contri-

bute to enhancing the new casting technologies.

This project is based on a study, the Foundry and Metallurgy Unit at RSS Mechanical Design and Technology Centre conducted earlier, to diagnose the problems of foundry sector.

The study showed that the most prevalent problems in this sector were related to the lack of homogeneity of the raw materials (mainly scrap), poor melting control practices, lack of sand control, and poor quality control of the finished products. This results in a 20 to 25 per cent rejection rate which means a low quality and a high price product.

The study concluded that increasing the productivity of the local foundry sector can only be achieved through the control of melt compositions, the use of appropriate melting practices, as well as the adoption of proper sand control procedures in moulding.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

House to debate laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament will hold a meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The House is scheduled to discuss the defence draft law for 1991, several Central Bank of Jordan amended laws and the banks temporary law no. 5 for the year 1975. The House's Legal Committee met Monday under the chairmanship of Mr. Lawzi. The committee discussed the illegal profiteering law.

House Legal Committee discusses laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Legal Committee met Monday and discussed the national economy protection draft law for the year 1991, and a law pertaining to lifting martial law for 1991. The committee will resume discussion of the laws Tuesday morning and will discuss the state court law of 1991 and the higher court of justice temporary law for 1989.

New travel restrictions to stem outflow of Iraqis

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The massive influx of Iraqis into Jordan which began in mid-May is soon expected to be restricted by new measures to be adopted by the Iraqi government, highly informed sources said Monday.

"The Iraqi government has informed Jordan that it is planning to impose a series of regulations aimed at reducing the flow of Iraqis leaving the country," said one of the sources.

According to the source, the Iraqi decision was conveyed to the Jordanian government by the governor of Al Anbar province, Issam Mohammad Al Rakabi, who visited Jordan last week. Mr. Rakabi held talks with Interior Minister Jawdat Al Esbou and other senior officials.

No precise figure is available on the number of Iraqis who travelled to Jordan since mid-May when the Baghdad government lifted decade-old travel restrictions on Iraqi citizens.

Informed officials said this week an average of 1,000 Iraqis were coming across the border into Jordan while 750 to 800 were leaving the Kingdom every day. The officials could not provide any definite number of Iraqis remaining in Jordan, but independent sources have put the figure at around 50,000.

Jordan represents the only avenue for Iraqis to leave Iraq since their country's borders with Turkey, Iran and Syria remained closed. Baghdad airport was damaged in the Gulf war and part of the damages have been repaired, but the air blockade imposed on Iraq prevents the reopening of the airport for civilian passenger flights.

Travellers on the main

Baghdad-Amman road reported a significant increase in the number of Iraqis crossing into Jordan this week with hundreds of cars and buses clogging the border posts.

But suggestions that the rise could be due to fears of renewed use of force by the American-led coalition against Iraq could not be clearly substantiated. Many Iraqis interviewed by the Jordan Times said they were seeking a short respite from the shortage of food and other essentials in their war-ravaged country which is under international sanctions imposed after its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Others said they were waiting for reunion with family members living abroad or for word on their applications for visas to European countries or the U.S..

A few said they were worried over the possibility of allied attacks on Iraq's nuclear facilities but that was not the main factor behind their departure for Jordan.

"Many of us have relatives abroad who would like to send us money," said an Iraqi who identified himself only as Abdul Hamid. "We can't receive bank transfers in Iraq, and so we have to come to Amman to collect them through Jordanian banks," he said.

Among the measures expected to be adopted by the Iraqi government are a reimposition of mandatory exit permits for all Iraqis wishing to leave their country. insistence on a documented third country visa and limiting the number of family members who could leave the country in one group, sources told the Jordan Times.

It was not immediately known whether Jordan would exercise its option of reimposing visa restric-

Ministry to lease land for farmers in Jordan Valley

DEIR ALLA - JORDAN VALLEY (J.T.) — The distribution of agricultural units and plots of lands on which homes can be set up by farmers in the central Jordan Valley region was discussed in detail during a meeting held here and attended by Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kawar.

Discussion covered questions related to procedures of allotting plots of land to farmers and increasing the powers granted to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) in handling such issues, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that agreement was reached at the meeting on the distribution of 75 units of land for farmers to build homes in the districts of North Shuneh, Mukhaibeh, Adasieh and Manshiyah.

The minister discussed with JVA Secretary General Abdul Aziz Wishah and his assistants projects currently executed by JVA in the valley and ways to ensure sufficient water supplies for the farmlands.

Petra said that the minister had decided to distribute 12 farming units to local farmers and urged JVA to take speedy decisions concerning the distribution of land located between North Shuneh and Karameh.

The minister endorsed the final organisational plans for lands in six areas and decided on other matters pertaining to JVA's

work.

According to the agency, the minister and the JVA board later discussed the question of leasing state-owned land to farmers and land developers, of plots of lands which could be leased for tourism projects and of a plot of land in the valley that could serve as an industrial centre for the region.

Prime Minister Taher Masri told Parliament on July 12 that the government planned to exert all efforts to deal with the problems that had been plaguing agriculture in the country. He said that accordingly, the government would address the questions of water shortage, water pollution, debts on small farmers and marketing of agricultural produce.

Mr. Masri also promised a national agricultural strategy aimed at creating a proper climate for farming and developing water resources to expand and increase production.

The Jordan Valley farmlands were last winter severely affected by contaminated water that caused the loss of nearly JD 60 million worth of crops. The previous government had set up a special committee to examine the situation and decided on steps to deal with the problem.

Following the discussions at Deir Alla, the minister inspected a number of development projects implemented by the JVA and those which are still underway.

MUSIC & DANCE AT THE AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL</h2

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Peace — concept and chance

JORDAN HAS made clear over the years that it seeks a just and lasting peace. Just for all; Arabs, Israelis and especially Palestinians. And lasting because Jordan believes that unless the peace lasts it will defy its purpose. And the purpose of peace, any peace, has always been the well-being of people. And the people of the Middle East, after decades of wars, turmoil and hatred, deserve peace. They need to divert their resources from machines of destruction into tools of production. They need to divert funds from armies into hospitals and schools; from research into means of killing into means of cure.

Jordan has been heartened by the news that finally the Syrians, Saudis, Gulf Arabs and Palestinians are all willing to sit with the Israelis, the Americans, the Soviets and the Europeans to seek peace for the peoples of the Middle East region.

What is disheartening to us, though, is that feeling or realisation that Israel is still not genuine about peace. It has put one obstacle after the other to sabotage peace efforts and dim peace prospects. The Israelis continue to say no to the PLO, no to exiled Palestinians and no to Jerusalemites. Israel should not forget that unless the PLO, the recognised representative of the Palestinian people, Palestinians in the diaspora and Jerusalem Arabs take part in the peace process, there will be no lasting peace.

A just and lasting peace can never be achieved unless the Palestinian people as a whole is involved and all dimensions of the Palestinian problem are solved once and for ever. Do Israeli leaders fail to understand this? We do not really think so. Many peace-loving Israelis have been calling for a historical settlement over Palestine for a long time now. And the mainstream Israeli leadership knows very well that unless such a historical compromise is reached with the Palestinians there will never be peace; and if there is a settlement, it will neither be just nor lasting.

It is this concept of peace that we in Jordan advocate and Israel wishes to ignore. The Palestinians have shown willingness to relinquish their historical claim to over half of Palestine for the sake of peaceful coexistence with the Israelis. And that is perhaps Israel's best historical opportunity to legitimise its existence and safeguard the interests of its people. If Israel chooses to miss this opportunity, there will be many more Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims who will accept nothing short of liberating every inch of the Holy Land. Then Israel will have to deal with much tougher conditions and challenges than is imaginable now.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Monday reaffirmed the Jordanian position with regard to the ongoing efforts to bring about peace to the region and said that the Kingdom has been the staunchest supporter of the Palestine cause and the Palestinians' efforts to regain their homeland. The paper said that the Jordanian leadership, government and people have always been committed to the Palestine question and seeking to end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Jordan can by no means deal with this important question with mere slogans, as it realises the need for steadfastness and as it continues to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people, the paper noted. It said that Jordan is now dealing with the facts on the ground, but can never accept any compromise on the future of the Palestinian people and can by no means support any move to deny the Palestinians their rights and homeland. Jordan, the paper added, is keen at the same time to deny the Israelis any chance to carry out hostile manoeuvres that could be detrimental to the Palestinian or the Arab causes. The paper emphasised the need for the implementation of the international legitimacy and all U.N. resolutions based on the exchange of land for peace so that a lasting peace can be established in the region.

Now that Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens has openly announced his government's acceptance to attend a peace conference, another obstacle is removed from the path of a settlement, said Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily Monday. But, the paper noted, observers still believe there are doubts about the achievement of a peaceful settlement due to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to exchange land for peace and his total rejection of a complete Israeli pull-out from the occupied Arab lands in conformity with the international legitimacy. Despite Mr. Arens statement, the Israeli government position is not yet formally declared and everything remains shrouded with mystery, the paper said. The paper said that the U.S. and Soviet political circles are now concerned over Israel's procrastinations and delays, and some observers are afraid that the Shamir government could resort to resignation and the announcement of an early general election, a move that could indefinitely delay the peace efforts. Therefore, said the paper everything depends on the U.S. administration, because if this administration is serious and determined to convene the peace conference, nothing can stand in the way.

Who attacked who in 1967 — a new improved myth

By John Law

WHATEVER happened to the words "pre-emptive strike"? For any readers who may have forgotten, this is the phrase that was traditionally used by the Israelis to explain why they attacked Egypt and Syria on June 5, 1967.

They had to do it, Israel's leaders claimed after the war, in order to forestall an imminent attack by the Arab states on Israel. Most people in the West believed this claim to be true. With constant repetition over the years, the words "pre-emptive strike" became very familiar, and their application to the 1967 war soon became a myth.

Many Western analysts, particularly those on the scene, believed from the beginning that the "pre-emptive strike" claim was spurious. The consensus was that Egypt's President Nasser had never had any intention of attacking Israel, had played into Israel's hands

by trying to score points with a dangerous game of bluff and bluster and had been genuinely surprised when Israel attacked. As more evidence came to light during the following years, it also became clear that the Israeli leaders themselves had not believed that Mr. Nasser was planning to attack. This has been acknowledged by such ex-hawks as Abba Eban and by current hawk Yitzhak Rabin (who told Le Monde in February 1968 that he was sure Mr. Nasser had not wanted war, while pointing out that the two divisions Mr. Nasser sent to Sinai on May 14, 1967 would not have been sufficient to launch an offensive against Israel). Other available documents, particularly the diaries of former Israeli Prime Minister Moshe Sharett, have since made it clear that Israel's "pre-emptive strike" had been designed to provoke a war that would provide a pretext for taking over Arab territory. Any one who

doubt that this motivation had long been present should listen to Mr. Shamir's current comments about the occupied territories.

Until recently, however, none of this evidence seemed to put any brake on the use of "pre-emptive strike" as a short-hand description for the origins of the war. It had become one of the linchpin myths, like the one about Palestine having been "barren" and "unpopulated" when the Zionists decided to move in. Those who used the myth seemed to find it useful — possibly because it sounded plausible to those not familiar with the facts, or because there seemed no other falsehood that had any chance of holding up to scrutiny. After all, the Israelis did strike first, as all the world could clearly see. So that part of the story surely had to be acknowledged. Or did it?

Apparently not. Suddenly, Rick fended off an attack by all

have disappeared from the buzz words of the American media. For many months, reference to the origins of the 1967 war has been taken over by a "new, improved" myth. According to the new version, what happened in 1967 was that "the Arab countries" attacked Israel, forcing it to respond and to take over Arab lands in the process.

It is, perhaps, not surprising that some of the regular drumbeaters for Israel now use this new myth routinely in their public statements or newspaper columns. For example, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Jean Kirkpatrick, has several times made the charge: "In 1967 Israel successfully fended off an attack by all of her Arab neighbours;" or, as a variant, "Arab neighbours... launched and lost an aggressive war in 1967 against Israel." Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress has written: "If there is an analogy between

the situation in the Persian Gulf and the war of 1967, it is that in both situations Arab countries invaded a peaceful neighbour without provocation." The Washington Post climbed on the bandwagon not long ago with an editorial making the flat statement: "Israel's acquisitions of 1967 came about in response to Arab aggression..."

Harder to fathom, however, is the shift to the new myth by well known commentators who are not known as "Arab-bashers." David Newsom, former U.S. under-secretary of state, wrote a column in which he took it as a "given" that in 1967 there was "an attack on Israel by Arab countries" and added that "Washington generally supports this view." A well known journalist, the generally level-headed Strobe Talbott, editor-at-large of Time magazine, recently referred to the 1967 war as an "Arab onslaught."

This new onslaught on his

Gulf crisis unleashed year of change for Lebanon

By Peter Smerdon
Reuter

BEIRUT — Iraq's invasion of Kuwait triggered a year of momentous change for Lebanon, long an arena where regional states and superpowers found eager proxies to play out their disputes.

On Aug. 2, 1990, the civil war which began 15 years before was raging with unrelenting ferocity.

Muslims fought Muslims in south Lebanon, Christians battled Christians in Beirut, a government in West Beirut blockaded rebel Christian General Michel Aoun in the east and the Lebanese Army was split on sectarian lines.

Palestinian gunmen skirmished in refugee camps. Israeli troops and their allies clashed with guerrillas. Only Lebanese exiles fleeing chaos in Liberia dared compare Beirut to heaven.

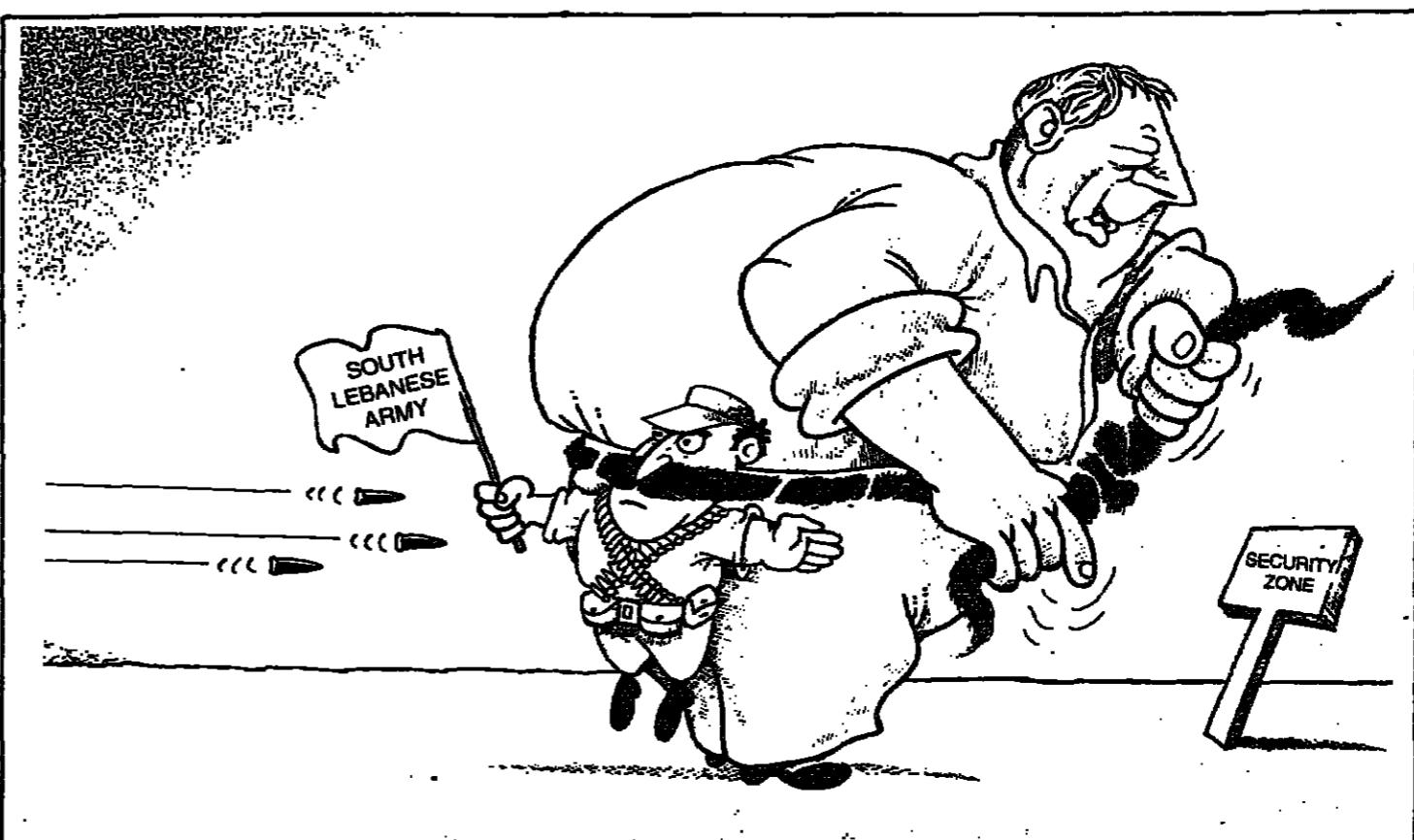
One year later Beirut and most of Lebanon are at peace. After up to 100,000 lives, the killing has stopped except in the south and the rebuilding has begun.

More than 100,000 Lebanese who fled abroad during the war are back this summer, some Western and Japanese businessmen are returning for the first time since 1975 and gunmen are off the streets.

"Saddam Hussein cannot take credit for this," said a Western ambassador, surprised by the speed of progress. "But the invasion tipped the balance of power in the Middle East and set off a chain of reactions that brought deep changes to Lebanon."

"Probably Saddam's biggest contribution was keeping Israel busy so the United States was free to, directly or indirectly, tell Syria it could take out General Aoun by force," he added.

The Gulf crisis meant economic hardship for Lebanon.



M. KAHLIL

It first made itself felt when tens of thousands of Lebanese from Iraq, Kuwait and other Gulf states came home to Beirut — at its lowest ebb in the civil war.

Officials estimate the crisis cost Lebanon \$500 million in lost capital in Kuwait alone, 25 per cent of its exports and \$50 million a month in remittances from workers in the Gulf.

But military breakthrough made possible by the Gulf crisis was shatteringly swift.

On the morning of Oct. 13, Syrian planes bombed Gen. Aoun's headquarters at the pres-

idential palace which he had occupied for two years. He was forced to flee to the French embassy.

It was the first time the Syrian air force had intervened directly in the civil war. Israel, since its 1982 invasion, had enjoyed total air supremacy.

But it did not block the Syrian raid, either at Washington's request or because it no longer objected to Gen. Aoun's departure.

After Gen. Aoun fled, Syrian and Lebanese troops overran his enclave in hours, removing the

most stubborn obstacle to implementing a year-old peace plan backed by the Arab League and the West.

The United States, allied with Damascus against Iraq, enjoyed the first big dividend of its 1988 decision to cooperate with Syria to bring peace to Lebanon.

The Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi could now call on the reunited Lebanese army as well as 40,000 Syrian troops to extend its authority over most of the country.

The new alliance forged by the Gulf crisis boded ill for Leba-

non's militias. The powerful Christian Lebanese Forces, once its worst enemy Aoun, had received millions of dollars' worth of weapons from Iraq in a bid by Baghdad to sabotage Syrian influence in Lebanon. Now the supply dried up.

Without Iraqi support and with Washington in association with Syria throwing its weight behind Beirut, private armies had to grudgingly accept peace or fight a war they could never win.

Warlords ordered their men off the streets in exchange for a new 30-man government.

Rafsanjani has pulled Iran out of isolation, but rocky road ahead

By Anwar Faruqi
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Two years after he was elected Iran's president, Hashemi Rafsanjani and the Islamic Republic are at the crossroads.

Either Mr. Rafsanjani, leader of the so-called pragmatists trying to end Iran's isolation, turns the moribund economy around before the 1993 presidential poll or the country faces the prospect of sliding back into turmoil.

If Mr. Rafsanjani cannot subdue his radical rivals and the deeply entrenched conservatives to revitalise the economy, "the alternative would most likely be a sustained period of instability," noted Shireen Hunter of George Town's Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

Mr. Rafsanjani was elected July 28, 1989, seven weeks after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic.

Despite predictions of a violent power struggle, the transition was surprisingly smooth. But deep-rooted rivalries, which Khomeini kept in check by his undisputed authority, remain to haunt his heirs.

Mr. Khomeini's death and a national referendum that gave unprecedented powers to as much as the presidency allowed Mr. Rafsanjani to steer Iran onto a new course, away from the rigid Islamic restrictions imposed by Mr. Khomeini and divesting Iran of its extremist ideology, much to the fundamentalists' chagrin.

But he "hasn't been as successful in domestic policy as much as in foreign policy," noted Morteza Firooz, political editor of the Tehran Times, Iran's leading English-language daily.

Under Mr. Rafsanjani's guidance, Tehran has restored relations with Britain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and other states.

Shortly before his election, he stressed with a candor that at the time was surprising: "It is impossible in today's world to be totally independent."

To the radical, anti-Western fundamentalists, who consider themselves Mr. Khomeini's true heirs, this is anathema. Anything that penetrates the hermetic Islamic shield Khomeini built around Iran dilutes the revolution, they argue.

Mr. Rafsanjani, 58, has contained his rivals and pressed ahead with his drive to open up relations with the West to attract badly needed foreign investment and access to advanced high technology to galvanise the oil-based economy.

But he has not eliminated them. He has moved many out of positions of power, but they remain within the bloated bureaucracy, eager at every turn to sabotage Mr. Rafsanjani's efforts.

"If internal bickering continues, and recent reforms remain unfulfilled, Iran faces an uncertain future and some of the pessimistic predictions made at the time of Khomeini's death may yet come to pass," Mr. Hunter noted.

Mr. Rafsanjani has succeeded in loosening some of the rigid Islamic restrictions imposed by Khomeini and divesting Iran of its extremist ideology, much to the fundamentalists' chagrin.

Iran's population is growing at a rate of 3.9 per cent a year, one of the highest in the world. Since the revolution, it has swelled from 37 million to an estimated 58 million.

By the year 2020, unless the birthrate is slowed, it will reach some 140 million.

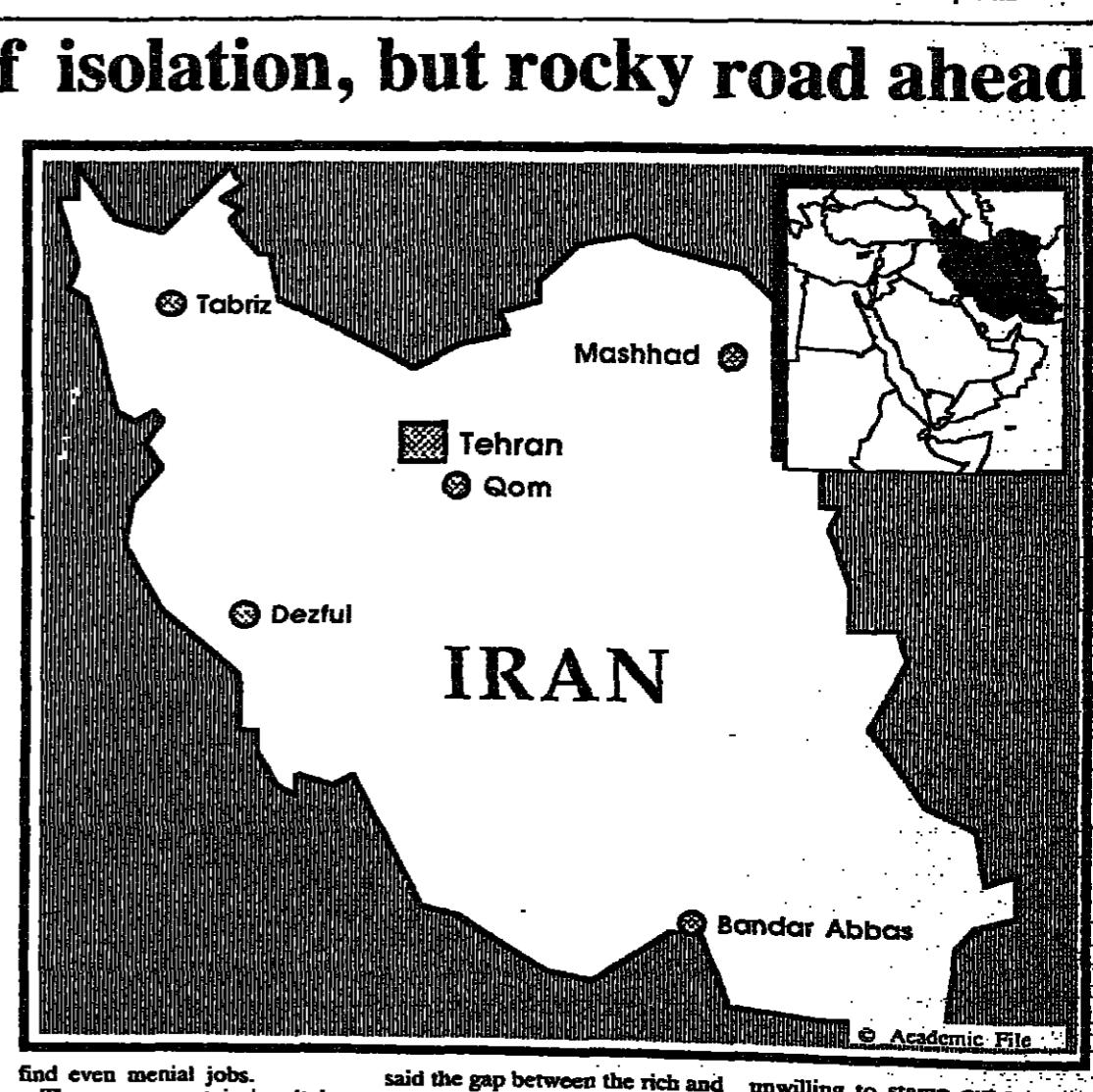
Unemployment, currently running at an estimated 25 per cent, will become a grievous problem. Even now, every year thousands of university graduates cannot

find even menial jobs.

The government insists it has reined in double-digit inflation to "only 8 per cent," and that the economy has grown by an unprecedented 10.1 per cent.

But those figures mean little to people whose buying power is less than it was in 1979, with prices moving up all the time.

A recent parliamentary report said the gap between the rich and the poor has barely narrowed since the revolution, with the upper-income 20 per cent of Iranians owning 51 per cent of the country's wealth now, compared to 49 per cent in 1979. Officials admit privately that the system is burdened by nepotism and corruption, which the government has been unable or unwilling to stamp out.



IRAN

But most agree that Mr. Rafsanjani's outward-looking policies rather than the radicals' xenophobic, fundamentalist Iran's only hope for progress. Mr. Rafsanjani is likely to have to put that to the test next spring when elections for the 270-member Majlis, or parliament are due.

Mideast on focus at summit

(Continued from page 1)

past nine years, will mean a cut of about one third in the most threatening U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons.

Mr. Bush, holding his sixth meeting with Mr. Gorbachev since taking office in 1989 but the first in the Soviet Union, was due to arrive in Moscow Monday evening. He will confer with Mr. Gorbachev on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the 12 days since the summit was announced, the White House

Shamir awaits Baker's visit

(Continued from page 1)

summit but Israel said it would not reply without clarifications on the make-up of a Palestinian delegation.

"We do not owe any answers. We are expecting answers from the Americans. It is a matter of clarification," Mr. Shamir said.

Hanan Ashrawi, a member of a Palestinian delegation which met Mr. Baker last week, said she still had not received official word about Mr. Baker's visit but expected a meeting with him.

She urged Mr. Baker to be firm with Israel and said Palestinians were tired of unfruitful meetings with him.

"We don't want meetings just for the sake of meetings. We don't want them to become a ritual. If there is something new or serious, there is reason for it; otherwise they are counterproductive," she told Reuters.

Mr. Levy, among the more dovish members of Mr. Shamir's hawkish cabinet, left Monday for the first trip to Cairo by a senior Israeli minister in two years.

"... We must now advance to a meeting which will bring about direct negotiations and we must not, therefore, now raise difficulties, conditions or obstacles because we must not miss this opportunity," he told reporters before departing.

But, he added, "on Jerusalem our position is unequivocal."

Mr. Levy was due to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak late Monday.

Asked if he was carrying a

message from Mr. Shamir, Mr. Levy said: "Yes, regards."

"In recent days, Israel has made a big step to advance peace. It is not being delayed because of Israel," Mr. Levy told reporters after a brief airport meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa. "We are determined to remove all obstacles to peace. Let us not allow anybody to place big stones on the road to our desired goal."

Cairo's authoritative Al Ahram newspaper, which normally has access to Egyptian foreign-policy makers, reported Monday that Egypt will tell Mr. Levy that Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem must be represented.

Mr. Levy hopes he can get Cairo's assistance to ensure the peace process does not fall apart, said an Israeli source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source said Mr. Levy would ask Egypt "to keep Syria at bay," persuading Damascus to avoid noisy demands for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Egyptian leaders were considered instrumental in persuading President Hafez Al Assad of Syria to join Mr. Baker's efforts to convene a peace conference.

The Arab states that have accepted the U.S. peace initiative object, however, to Israel's continued settlement-building in the occupied territories.

Mr. Assad was quoted Sunday as saying that he does not rule out accepting the Jewish state's existence, but that "no peace can be established if one party continues to occupy another party's land."

3 SLA militamen killed

(Continued from page 2)

his fighters would keep up attacks in defiance of the government's drive to bring the south under its control.

Hizbullah holds that guerrilla war is the only way to force Israel to pull out from the "security zone," which the Jewish state set up in 1985.

The bomb exploded in the village of Deir Seir Siriane six kilometres northwest of the Israeli border and within a "security zone" controlled by Israel and the SLA.

"One of our units detonated 50 kilogrammes of explosives while an armoured patrol of the Zionist enemy forces and their SLA mercenaries passed on the Deir Siriane road."

"Three members of the patrol were killed and four were injured," the group said.

Security sources in Israel said three SLA militamen were killed and two wounded along with a civilian.

The SLA opened heavy guns in retaliation, sending about 50 155-mm shells crashing into the village of Zawtar Al-Sharqiyeh. Security sources said two children

wounded.

Israeli troops and the 3,000-strong SLA hold a 15-kilometre deep strip across South Lebanon and a corridor to the town of Jezzine, to the north.

The Lebanese government wants guerrilla raids against the Jewish state to cease so Washington would press Israel to leave. Israel says its troops will remain until all other foreign forces, including 40,000 Syrian troops, pull out of Lebanon.

UNIFIL mandate

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended Monday that the Security Council accept a request by Lebanon for a further six-month renewal of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Its current mandate expires at the end of this month and the council is expected to meet on Wednesday to extend it until Jan. 31, 1992.

UNIFIL, comprising some 5,850 men from Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Norway and Sweden, was established in 1978.

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Amnesty reports Israeli torture

(Continued from page 1)

cause they have not been notified of the trial date.

"Under such circumstances," Amnesty International said, "the fundamental right to a fair trial is prejudiced." The organisation is calling on the Israeli government to urgently introduce safeguards against torture and ill-treatment and to ensure fair trials.

France to push for sanction easing

(Continued from page 1)

"We are talking to our other friends and allies about this," Mr. Bush said in discussing the use of force.

The New York Times reported Sunday that the Defence Department had briefed its Gulf war allies, including Britain and France, on preliminary plans to bomb not only Iraqi nuclear sites but also "leadership," including President Saddam Hussein himself.

However, unidentified senior U.S. officials involved in day-to-day management of policy on Iraq told the newspaper that America's Gulf war allies had doubt about renewed bombing and those doubts would have to be overcome should Mr. Bush decide to use force.

"There are mixed degrees of (aliied) enthusiasm, or lack of enthusiasm, but I think there is unanimity that this lying and secreting of material must stop," Mr. Bush said.

"That overrides any divisions there might be" on using force, Mr. Bush said.

The Iraqi News Agency said Monday Iraq and the United Nations have set an Aug. 15 date to begin returning to Kuwait gold and artwork taken during the Iraqi occupation.

The agency said the gold as well as Kuwaiti banknotes would be turned over at the remote border crossing of Arar on the Saudi Arabian-Iraqi border.

One official said the prime minister's reply would reject Mr. Brown's calls for an inquiry.

whom the Fed said had relationships with BCCI.

BCCI has involvements in 69 countries. Tangled in its web are a bevy of well-known and influential personalities: Former Defense Secretary Clark M. Clifford, Robert Gates, President George Bush's embattled nominee to head the CIA, Bert Lance, advised to President Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Clifford, a former presidential adviser and potent political figure, is the chairman of First American Bankshares Inc., the holding company of the Washington bank.

Others include: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, imprisoned Panamanian强人 Manuel Noriega, the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Palestine guerrilla Abu Nidal, Colombia's cocaine barons.

BCCI: "The bank of crooks and criminals." That's what Mr. Gates, who was deputy director of the CIA at the time, called it in a 1988 conversation with former U.S. Customs Commissioner William Von Raab.

The CIA used BCCI accounts in the 1980s to funnel secret aid to guerrillas in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and other countries, law enforcement and congressional sources have told the Associated Press.

Intelligence agencies in several other countries had links with the bank, as did extremist groups,

willingness to translate the promises it made to the world's children," Mr. Lannert said.

In Iraq, the deteriorating situation resulting from the shortage of food and medicine is further worsened by the "inability to respond" positively and check the slide, Mr. Lannert said.

Obviously, Iraq needs urgent funds to address the pressing food and health problems of its people, but the international embargo imposed against the country following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait is choking its efforts.

In addition to requesting that the U.N. Security Council's allow it to sell \$1.5 billion worth of oil to meet its urgent food and medicine needs, Iraq has also approached various Western and other countries to unfreeze its bank accounts and assets.

But it has met with little success, particularly since most governments are arguing that their public and private sectors have outstanding financial claims against Iraq.

International studies have proven that countries which cannot offer enough food to its people or whose populace suffer from persistent malnutrition despite the availability of food remain undeveloped since the intellectual and physical abilities and national input of their people fall far below those of their counterparts in advanced countries.

The international community, which endorsed the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and held an impressive World Summit on Children in 1990, faces "the real test of its

Future of entire Iraqi generation in peril

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The acute shortage of food and medicine is not only threatening the life of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children in the short term, but has also endangered the future of the entire Iraqi nation through rendering the younger generation of the country potentially incapable of developing physical and intellectual abilities, according to a senior U.N. official.

As far-fetched it might seem to the layman, statistics cited by Edward J. Lannert, regional director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), underline the gravity of the situation.

"Over 170,000 children under five are suffering from severe clinical malnutrition and another one million suffer from moderate malnutrition," according to Mr. Lannert.

Recent studies by independent groups have found that the 170,000 children under the age of five face certain death in one year if urgent measures are not taken to improve their health situation.

Noting that the development of brain cells requires sufficient nutrition for natural growth in the early years, Mr. Lannert pointed out that science has proven that children deprived of enough food cannot grow to their full potential not only physically, but also intellectually.

Based on these findings, unless the nutritional needs of Iraqi children are met immediately, "the physical and intellectual future of the entire Iraqi nation is at stake."

"It is a horrendous...shocking...situation. Thirty to 35,000 newborn Iraqi children are severely underweight" because their mothers are malnourished, said Mr. Lannert, who returned to Amman this week after extensive talks with officials and field visits in Iraq.

In some African and Asian countries, underweight births are an expected phenomenon as a result of a general state of malnutrition among mothers, but "such a situation should not occur in a country like Iraq," he said.

Malnutrition could also result from some of the most common diseases and lead to diminished resistance against other diseases, which could easily turn fatal or further weaken the body cells, stunting the infant's growth.

"Diarrhoea, measles and respiratory infections take away a child's appetite, inhibit absorption, burn calories and drain nutrients in diarrhoea and sickness," says the State of the World's Children Report for 1991.

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The international community, which endorsed the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and held an impressive World Summit on Children in 1990, faces "the real test of its



An Iraqi mother with her children at an Iraqi hospital — what future awaits these children?

ceeded Richard Reid as UNICEF regional director on July 1.

"Sewerages have burst and

there are areas where sewage is

strewn all over," Mr. Lannert said.

"In many cases, ground

floors of buildings cannot be used

and families do their cooking on

the roofs," but there is no escape

from the pollution which breeds

bacteria and virus conducive to

epidemics, he added.

"It is the worst sanitation con-

ditions I have ever seen in my 26

years with UNICEF," said Mr.

Lannert, 51, an American.

Diarrhoea and typhoid are

common among Iraqi children

and the Iraqi government has

reported at least 340 cholera

cases last year," he said.

Independent relief workers put

the total number of cholera cases

at around 600, with at least 150

deaths.

Sewage clearing and the supply

of clean water cannot improve as

long as the authorities are unable

to repair power-generating facil-

ties and obtain vital chemicals.

"Some of the facilities are

barely functioning. If any of them

break down it is a foregone con-

clusion that they could not be

repaired because of the lack of

Indurain to defend Tour de France title

PARIS (AP) — Miguel Indurain, the newest Tour de France champion, will start the defence of his title next year in his home territory as the 1992 tour starts at San Sebastien in the Basque region of Spain.

Wherever it starts, three-time champion Greg Lemond will also be there and likely will be among the favourites. This year he lost his title and for the first time in his career didn't even earn a berth on the podium as top-three finisher.

"Next year I'll skip the classics. My objective is always to win the Tour de France," Lemond said. "As long as I'm racing, I'm going to come every time to the tour with the intention of winning it."

Indurain won the title Sunday by three minutes over Gianni Bugno of Italy, with Lemond 13 minutes behind.

Pushed by victory, Indurain also promised to be back next year. Now Indurain can be taken seriously instead of being seen as just a teammate of Pedro Delgado, the Spaniard who won the Tour de France in 1988.

Indurain improved from a 10th-place finish last year.

"Last year I was there to fight for a place. But it's not the same thing when you fight to keep the 10th position than when you've won the race," Indurain said.

Fighting for the title was a new

feeling for Indurain, as was the also-ran battle fought by Lemond.

"I've learned that when you push yourself to win it's much easier than when you push yourself to lose," Lemond said.

Lemond began pushing himself in front in this tour right at the beginning and took a lead of two minutes over Indurain after the first time trial.

"Everybody in the pack was not going to give me a gift in the Tour de France," Lemond said.

"Most of the people were racing against me. It's a natural thing. I won the tour three times. I took a great lead in the first stage. I was the man to beat."

The American held his advantage through the first week until the transfer from Nantes in Brittany to Pau just outside of the Pyrenees.

However, the Pyrenees inspired Indurain more than Lemond and the Spaniard knew exactly when to take advantage of the situation.

"Lemond started very fast. Our team had to work and we took the best climbers. So that is where it was possible we could take over any advantage," Indurain said.

In the Pyrenees, Indurain came in second in the stage to Val Louron. Lemond was slowed by a



Miguel Indurain

viral infection that put him seven minutes behind Indurain.

From that time, Lemond lived the most dramatic hours on his bike. After recuperating from two bad days in the Pyrenees he was down again physically and psychologically in the Alps.

"I didn't feel like riding my bike and I wanted to abandon," he said at the time.

Once he recuperated, Lemond said it was easier to ride, and his results showed it with victories in the 16th, 19th and 22nd stages.

He came up short in his comeback, however, but will be ready to ride. So, too, will Indurain.

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Fighting for the title was a new

Sanchez Vicario carries Spain to victory in Federation Cup

NOTTINGHAM, England (AP) — After leading Spain to its first Federation Cup title by almost single-handedly defeating the United States team, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario finally was cooled down by the winner's trophy.

Sanchez Vicario first defeated Mary Joe Fernandez in singles, then tilted her inexperienced doubles partner Conchita Martinez to victory as Spain defeated the Americans 2-1 in Sunday's final of the international team competition.

Equally parts showman and tennis superstar, Sanchez Vicario dominated the doubles match against the experienced American duo of Gigi Fernandez and Zina Garrison — and even led the crowd in cheer of "ole ole."

The only thing that cooled off Sanchez Vicario was the trophy, which was loaded with water and yellow roses. It tipped over as she

accepted it, drenching the exhausted player.

"I told them thanks for the shower," she said.

Sanchez Vicario was all over the court in doubles, smashing winners and exhorting Martinez — ranked only 105th in the world in doubles — as Spain rallied to win 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the rubber match of the best-of-3 series.

"After I won my singles, we knew we had a chance, but it would be difficult," Sanchez Vicario said. "We decided to just go for it."

Gigi Fernandez, ranked no. 1 in the world in doubles, said the reason for the loss was simple. "I think basically we choked. That's the biggest choke of my career by far," she said.

The Americans jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first set of the doubles, but then won only four

Napoli is short of admirers

ROME (R) — Napoli have discovered that, without Diego Maradona, even cut-price tickets have little appeal.

The American duo became so frustrated that Fernandez smashed a ball out of the stadium — earning a warning from the umpire — after missing two volleys in the last game.

Martinez finished off the victory with a volley winner between the American players. Sanchez Vicario and Martinez threw their rackets in the air and rushed to hug each other.

Spain, which lost in the 1989 Federation Cup final to the United States, prevented the Americans from winning their third consecutive title. The United States still has a record 14 Federation Cup titles.

With Maradona on their books last year, they sold nearly 42,000 season tickets at their 80,000-capacity San Paolo Stadium in the poverty-stricken southern port city of Naples.

This season, despite signing ace French international sweeper Laurent Blanc to join established Brazilians Careca and Alemao and despite reducing prices in some parts of the stadium, they have sold just 13,000 season tickets to date.

While Napoli's takings amount to a paltry \$4 billion lire (\$4.9 million), other clubs have fared better.

AC Milan, despite the setback of a year's ban from European soccer and the loss of double European Cup-winning coach Arrigo Sacchi, have 54,000 season tickets so far worth a staggering total of 25 billion lire (\$22.7 million).

Chesnokov wins Canadian Open crown

MONTREAL (R) — With all the top seeds ousted from the \$1.2 million Canadian Open, the task of winning the tournament fell to 12th-seeded Andrei Chesnokov, who beat Petr Korda 3-6 6-4 6-3 in the finals Sunday.

The victory marked the first time a Soviet citizen won the Canadian Open since its inception in 1929. It also gave the

finals, but it seemed incidental who he played — dropping a 6-3 3-0 lead, with two breaks in the second set.

Chesnokov dashed the 40th-ranked Korda's dream when he eliminated the fourth-ranked Lendl in two tough sets in the semifinals. Korda eliminated second-seeded Jim Courier in the other semifinal.

Both vulnerable North deals.

Prost and Senna row while Mansell celebrates

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (R)

— While Nigel Mansell celebrated the supremacy of his Williams team and his third successive Grand Prix win Sunday, world champion Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost were busy reviving their old enmity.

Brazilian Senna, who leads this year's Formula One title race, tangled with his French rival on lap 38 of the 45-lap German race dominated by Briton Mansell.

Prost, in a Ferrari, was attempting to pass Senna's McLaren, and after being blocked for several laps, attempted to go by on the outside on the approach to the first chicane.

Senna, predictably, resisted and as the space diminished, both cars braked hard, Senna giving Prost no space to pass. Prost was forced to lock up his brakes, and ended up running off the track and, after losing his engine, retiring.

Prost was furious and urged the International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) to fine Senna as they had fined Mauricio Gugelmin of Brazil and Aguri Suzuki of Japan for incidents at the recent French and British Grands Prix.

"It is the same rules for everyone," he said.

"He should be fined. Now that my championship chances are over, I shall do my best to help Nigel and Williams-Renault to win the title. What he did is unfair."

"And I shall have no problems in Hungary in driving against him again. If he does it again, I shall

of form."

For the first time since they joined forces with Renault in 1989, they had taken over at the top of the Constructors' Championship, leading McLaren by 71 points to 70.

Renault's technical director Bernard Dudot was delighted:

"It was just perfect. At the start, Nigel opened up a gap and then cleverly controlled it without risking his engine... to achieve a one-two, our second of the season, has astonished me a bit," he said.

"It is impossible to do better — now we are at the head of the Constructors' Championship and we have got a lot to do."

For Mansell, this means trying to extend his remarkable run while his chief rival, Senna, is out of form.

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

your time and energy on it and do nothing to dissuade any associate from their part.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now find you can have a happy day if you avoid spending more than you can afford on some temporary pleasure that really doesn't mean much to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you like the most to do can be best put aside until another time while you carry through with that what you have promised partner you will do.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let those with whom you have usual contact be aware that you are the one who will get out and do the things that require attention.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever is of financial importance to you should be done now without further ado so get busy and arrange financial affairs as you wish them to be.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you would be wise to go after that vital wish early after which you can carry through in a pretty casual fashion to gain other objectives.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have so many little things to get behind you before you will be able to go forward that you would be wise to do so right now without delay.

push him off the track. I will show that I can be aggressive, too," he said.

Senna responded by blaming Prost for the incident.

"He is always complaining. Prost got me easily after two laps and he was faster than me. Prost just could not get by. There was no way to get past me there...

"We could have touched then at 300 kph and if we had you would have a big impact. He could have caused it. It was a desperate move by him."

As the new Senna-Prost row simmered, reviving memories of their long-running feuds in 1989 and 1990 and the infamous incident at the first corner at Suzuka in last year's Japanese Grand Prix, the Williams team were celebrating.

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Financial Markets			Jordan Times	
			in co-operation with Cairo American Bank	
Mid-Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close		
Date 26/7/1991	Date 29/7/1991			
Sterling Pound	1.6820	1.6765		
Deutsche Mark	1.7647	1.7515		
Swiss Franc	1.5027	1.5280		
French Franc	5.9340	5.9655 **		
Japanese Yen	137.60	129.19		
European Currency Unit	1.1775	1.1707 **		
** USD Per STG				
** European Opening of Sun a.m. GMT				
Eurocurrency Interest Rates				
	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.67	5.95	6.16	6.50
Sterling Pound	10.57	10.87	10.81	10.75
Deutsche Mark	6.90	9.16	9.37	9.43
Swiss Franc	7.62	7.81	7.51	7.68
French Franc	9.50	9.50	9.54	9.68
Japanese Yen	7.37	7.37	7.16	5.93
European Currency Unit	9.61	9.93	10.06	10.05
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1.5 million US dollars or equivalent.				
Previous Metals				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD-Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	370.50	7.00	Silver	4.11
* 21 Karat				
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin				
	Date: 29/7/1991			
Currency	Bid	Offer		
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689		
Sterling Pound	1.1469	1.1549		
Deutsche Mark	.3914	.3934		
Swiss Franc	.4485	.4567		
French Franc	.1151	.1157		
Japanese Yen	.4966	.4962		
Dutch Guilder	.5473	.5490		
Swedish Krona	.1080	.1085		
Italian Lira	.0524	.0527		
Belgian Franc	.01901	.01911		
* Per 100				
Other Currencies				
	Date: 23/7/1991			
Currency	Bid	Offer		
Rheims Dinar	1.7850	1.7950		
Lebanese Lira	.0770	.0790		
Saudi Riyal	.1829	.1826		
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-		
Qatari Riyal	.1860	.1865		
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2160		
Oman Riyal	.17500	.17600		
UAE Dirham	.1860	.1865		
Greek Drachma	.3440	.3640		
Cypriot Pound	1.4150	1.4450		
* Per 100				
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market				
Index	27/7/1991 Close	25/7/1991 Close		
All-Share	110.95	110.61		
Banking Sector	105.07	105.64		
Insurance Sector	119.57	119.35		
Industry Sector	115.62	115.40		
Services Sector	127.30	127.10		
December 31, 1990 = 100				

Unemployment in Czechoslovakia may top 1m soon

PRAGUE (AP) — The number of jobless reached 223,200 or 2.9 per cent of Czechoslovakia's workforce in April and could spiral to about 300,000 this year, a government official has said.

Labour Minister Petr Miller told federal parliament that unemployment was rising fast especially

in the eastern republic of Slovakia, where 116,000 people, or 4.6 per cent of the Slovak workforce, were seeking unemployment benefits, the state CTK news agency reported. Mr. Miller also warned that over 200,000 young people will leave school this year, putting further pressure on the job market, CTK said.

OECD sees Canada's GDP rebounding, inflation abating

OTTAWA (R) — Canada will experience a moderate economic rebound and lower inflation next year but unemployment will still top 10 per cent of the work force, the OECD has said.

But separatist threats from predominantly French-speaking Quebec province and current efforts to prevent the country from fragmenting jeopardise that outlook, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in its half-yearly report.

"Canada's constitutional problems are a major source of uncertainty surrounding the outlook, as they could lead to financial-market nervousness and significant changes to the country's fiscal structure," the report said.

Led by weakening domestic demand in response to high interest rates, economic decline accelerated in late 1990 and early

1991 when the U.S. economy, the major customer for Canadian exports, also entered recession.

But the 24-nation Paris-based organisation, which publishes a review of its members' economic performance twice a year, said there were signs Canada was emerging from recession and forecast gross domestic product (GDP) would rise 3.1 per cent in 1992.

That is a jump from a decline of one per cent expected this year and up from 0.9 per cent growth last year.

Exports are projected to make the most important contribution to economic growth up to mid-1992," it said. "An upswing in the United States, along with continued expansion in overseas economies, is expected to lead to a rebound in export market growth."

As such, Canada's trade sur-

plus is expected to rise to 11 billion dollars (\$12.3 billion) 1992 from an anticipated 13 billion dollars (\$11.4 billion) this year and 9.8 billion dollars (\$8.6 billion) in 1990.

And the current account deficit, the broadest measure of international payments, is expected to shrink to nine billion dollars (\$7.9 billion) next year from 10 billion dollars (\$8.8 billion) in 1991 and 1990's 13.7 billion dollars (\$12 billion).

Unemployment is forecast to remain at 10.1 per cent next year, almost the same as that expected this year and compared with last year's level of 8.1 per cent.

The time lag between the economy improving and businesses hiring workers again, coupled with slowing demands for wage increases, is expected to bring inflation down.

Japan brokers paid favoured clients \$930m

TOKYO (R) — Japan's top four compensation were not named but only described as company officials in the list. Speculation is growing that major political figures may have also received special treatment from the big four.

A senior JSDA official told reporters his association might not go any further to investigate the compensation scandal.

"Depending on the situation, the association may not investigate the compensation further. It would be no use to have our investigation overlap similar probes by parliament and the ministry of finance," he said.

He said his association had no information on whether some investors forced brokerages to compensate them for their losses. "We do not know these details. We are simply passing on information that was handed to us by the big four brokerages," he pointed out.

Finance ministry officials have been under pressure from politicians to reveal the names of those investors who received compensation for losses incurred when the stock market crashed in 1987 and again in 1990.

But Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, fighting pressure to resign to take responsibility for the scandal, told a lower house finance committee Thursday it would be difficult to reveal names as such data was privileged information.

A Toyota spokesman immediately denied it had received compensation. Nissan's vice president had admitted earlier Monday it had been reimbursed, but without the company's knowledge.

This company never demanded compensation and because it entrusted its fund management to the brokerages, was not aware of having received any compensation for losses," said Nissan Vice President Atsushi Muramatsu in a statement.

Three individuals who received

COLOMBO (R) — The Colombo branch of the scandal-hit Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), closed since July 5 after a worldwide failure, reopened Monday under the management of a Sri Lankan bank.

There were no queues or large-scale withdrawals, as some banking sources had expected.

"Business is as usual. Depositors have learnt to trust us," said Lalith Kotalawela, chairman of Seylan Bank.

Seylan, Sri Lanka's newest privately-owned bank, took over the management of BCCI Colombo under an agreement signed with the central bank last week.

Mr. Kotalawela said last week that his bank guaranteed all Sri Lankan deposits but there was nothing they could do about foreign assets which had been frozen in the bank's Cayman Islands head office.

Banking sources in Colombo said it was the first instance of BCCI branches being handed to a local bank to manage after being taken over by a central bank.

BCCI spanned 69 nations and held \$20 billion in deposits. Investigators say the fraud could involve from \$4 to \$15 billion, up three-quarters of BCCI assets.

Seylan General Manager Rohan Perera said about 2.1 million rupees (\$52,500) were withdrawn in BCCI Colombo's first hour of business Monday.

"It is about the normal withdrawal on any day," he said.

Seylan officials have been meeting some of BCCI's 2,000 corporate and individual clients and assuring them that there is no need for apprehension.

"Your money is safe now. There is no need for panic," said Mr. Kotalawela.

Jordan Times
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Newly Opened

Kuwait ships first crude since invasion

Iraq ready to export 1m barrels of oil a day

response to the invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

"Now the situation in our country is back to normal, we are working actively to rebuild our country, the only real obstacle are the sanctions," Mr. Sahaf said.

Mr. Sahaf told reporters after meeting Indonesia's President Suharto that most of the oil facilities damaged during the Gulf war with the United States and its allies had been repaired.

"We are ready to export oil, the moment (the U.N.) allows us," Mr. Sahaf said after delivering a letter to President Suharto from President Saddam Hussein.

"Now our capacity, roughly speaking, is a little less than one million barrels a day and we are (further) developing our capacity," he said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Usama Al Hit said in an interview published Sunday that his government saw no problems in reopening its export pipelines to Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

He told Reuters last month that Iraq hoped to be producing its Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota of 3.2 million barrels a day by the end of next year.

Just before Iraq invaded Kuwait last August and its quota was suspended, the country had an export quota of 3.14 million barrels a day.

Mr. Sahaf described as immovable the sanctions which have blocked Iraq's trade with the world for nearly a year. The sanctions were imposed by the United Nations in

response post-war reconstruction.

Oil wells around this terminal are still burning out of control, a poignant reminder of Iraq's invasion.

Wrecked cars and shattered buildings also deface the once bustling port.

Sheikh Raqa said 249 wells had been capped as of Friday.

The emirate is currently producing 115,000 barrels of oil a day. This excludes the estimated daily output of 200,000 barrels from the Neutral Zone which Kuwait shares with Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait was pumping about two million barrels of crude a day before the Iraqi invasion.

Sheikh Raqa said the invasion had caused up to \$75 million worth of damage to the oil industry, including lost production.

The superanker Thoresen left Mina Al Ahmadi oil terminal south of Kuwait City at midday Sunday en route to western Europe. Oil Minister Hamoud Abdulla Al Raqa said other tankers would pick up crude at a rate of one every seven to 10 days.

"I am very happy to see this day. Our Kuwaiti people and their friends did a tremendous job to achieve this in such a very short time," Sheikh Raqa had told reporters aboard Thoresen Saturday.

The loss of oil exports had deprived Kuwait of its main source of hard currency earnings, forcing it to seek billions of dollars in foreign borrowing to

finance post-war reconstruction.

Oil wells around this terminal are still burning out of control, a poignant reminder of Iraq's invasion.

World News

EC ministers gloomy as talks with Yugoslav leaders begin

BRUSSELS (R) — Yugoslav leaders met European Community (EC) officials Monday to find ways of ending the bloodbath in their country.

But EC foreign ministers voiced little hope that they would be able to end the violence in Croatia as they did earlier this month in the breakaway Republic of Slovenia.

"They are on the verge of civil war. We'll do our best but I'm not very optimistic," Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez told reporters.

Belgium's Mark Eyskens said he was not "very optimistic" because the situation is deteriorating.

The EC ministers were due to meet Prime Minister Ante Marković; Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and two members of Yugoslavia's collective presidency over lunch.

The 12 EC ministers are debating options ranging from sending another ministerial delegation to Yugoslavia to increasing the number of EC observers in the troubled country.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said he supported the idea of sending troops from EC states to act as a buffer force in Croatia, where Serbian guerrillas seem to be gaining the upper hand against ethnic Croats in fighting that left several dozen dead at the weekend.

But France, which had floated the idea originally, appeared to be backing down in the face of likely opposition from other states including the Netherlands, which was chairing the talks as current EC president.

Mr. Bernard said France wanted a "major increase" in the number of observers but would not mention a figure.

Croatian demonstrators rallied outside EC headquarters as the Yugoslav leaders arrived, demanding that their republic be allowed to break away from the rest of Yugoslavia.

Police estimated the number of demonstrators at 1,500.

Meanwhile, Yugoslavs are learning to their horror how quickly fear, terror and mistrust can change them.

Now Petrinja is on the front line. Refugees and inhabitants alike are moving out.

Serbia or Slovenia," German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told German Radio.

"Because it is a fact that a solution can only be found if the representatives of the republics are included," he said.

Mr. Genscher, like several of his colleagues, called for a reinforcement of a team of 50 EC observers sent to Slovenia early this month to monitor an EC-brokered ceasefire between the federal army and the breakaway republic.

Escalating ethnic violence in the region between the local Roman Catholic militias and Christian Orthodox Serb guerrillas has been creeping towards the village for weeks.

The guerrillas have driven hundreds of mainly Croatian villagers from their nearby homes. Dozens of people have been killed in fighting in the area since Friday.

Over the weekend the region's violence caught up with Petrinja, which until then was considered a haven for the hundreds of villagers who fled indiscriminate machinegun attacks and mortar shelling elsewhere.

Now Petrinja is on the front line. Refugees and inhabitants alike are moving out.

Troops advance to besieged Sri Lankan camp

COLOMBO (R) — A relief force killed 60 Tamil rebels in their battle against minefields, unfamiliar terrain and fierce resistance to reach a Sri Lankan army camp under rebel siege for 20 days, a military spokesman said Monday.

"The advance is very slow, but we are achieving some progress," he said.

In Sunday's fighting, 60 rebels and six soldiers were killed. He said 30 soldiers were wounded.

The battle has been described

as the biggest of the 10-year-old ethnic war.

The relief column has been inching its way toward the 800-man army garrison at Elephant Pass that has been under attack from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam since July 10.

Officials put the death toll so far since the new round of fighting began at 1,170 rebels and 143 soldiers.

The Tigers, fighting for a separate state in the north and east for minority Tamils, have been

pounding the camp with rocket-propelled grenades, mortar bombs and small arms fire.

The camp connects the northern Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the island.

Rebels launched five massive assaults on the camp Saturday in which at least 150 rebels and seven soldiers died, the spokesman said.

The casualties and extent of the fighting could not be verified with independent sources or with the Tigers.

Pacific leaders worry about environment

POHNPEI, Federated States of Micronesia (AP) — Leaders of the 15-nation South Pacific Forum opened their annual summit Monday, troubled by mounting environmental problems that threaten the region's idyllic lifestyle.

Global warming, overfishing by foreign crews, nuclear testing and the disposal of toxic wastes were all issues of concern at the two-day meeting of these remote island nations.

What galls officials the most is that islanders had little if anything to do with the creation of these problems.

Under umbrellas to protect against tropical showers, officials were greeted with traditional island pomp at a government complex on Pohnpei, halfway between Honolulu and Manila.

Men in grass skirts wore banana-festooned with fern fronds as they pounded drums. The island leaders served bowls of Sakau, also known as Kava, a potent mouth-numbing intoxicant made from pepper plant roots.

Meanwhile, officials also announced the Cook Islands will host a forum meeting in November on surviving in the 21st century. The low-lying islands could become uninhabitable if ocean levels rise from the greenhouse effect.

Other volatile issues include nuclear testing in French Polynesia, drift net fishing by foreign crews, and the suggestion by some countries outside the region to use the remote islands to dump toxic waste.

In addition, officials worry about the safety of the prototype U.S. chemical-weapons destruction plant at Johnston Atoll and the prospect of a leak from deteriorating World War II-era weapons waiting to be destroyed.

The meeting also focuses on economic development, energy, trade, regional security, drug trafficking and political issues.

It groups Australia and New Zealand with the independent self-governing island nations of the Pacific: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

The meeting will be followed by talks Thursday and Friday between the forum and the United States, Japan, Britain, France, Canada, China and the European Community (EC).

Madagascar protesters call on Ratsiraka to quit

ANTANANARIVO (R) —

Thousands of anti-government protesters, spurning concessions made by Madagascar President Didier Ratsiraka, massed in the capital Monday and called on him to resign.

"Down with Ratsiraka's bloody and authoritarian rule" and "Ratsiraka, out" read banners hoisted aloft by demonstrators who poured into May 13 square in Antananarivo.

The rally, which opposition leaders were due to address later Monday, followed an announcement by 54-year-old Ratsiraka that he was sacking his government and organising a referendum on a new constitution.

A former navy officer who took power at the head of a ruling military junta in 1975, Mr. Ratsiraka extended an olive branch to the opposition Sunday night after a seven-week campaign of strikes and protests.

But the verdict of the crowd that massed in the capital seemed to be that his concessions did not go far enough.

Earlier this month, when the leaders wanted to talk and call off their strike, the crowd turned them down, one Western diplomat said.

Diplomats said while opposition leaders might be prepared to negotiate with Mr. Ratsiraka in the wake of his concessions, the crowds might continue to press for him to step down.

He declared a state of emergency and clamped a night curfew on the city last Tuesday in a vain attempt to curb the protests.

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It's Mikhail and George now, but it wasn't always so

WASHINGTON (AP) — They call each other Mikhail and George and banter easily. But they weren't always on a first-name basis and their fellowship now is a far cry from where the relationship started.

Six weeks before his January 1989 inauguration, U.S. President-elect George Bush had a testy exchange with Mikhail Gorbachev on Governor's Island in New York harbour. Mr. Bush asked the Soviet president sceptically what assurances he could give that his economic and political reforms would succeed.

"Not even Jesus Christ knows the answer to that question," Mr. Gorbachev snapped.

The episode darkened the mood of the Dec. 7, 1988, farewell meeting between Mr. Gorbachev and outgoing President Ronald Reagan. And it set a gloom tone for the developing relationship between Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Bush's attitude towards Mr. Gorbachev was one of mistrust and doubt. He privately told associates that Mr. Reagan had been taken in by the charming and polished Soviet leader. Mr. Bush's spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, dismissed Mr. Gorbachev as "a drugstore cowboy" playing a "PR game."

Mr. Bush characterised his attitude as one of prudence. A frustrated Gorbachev, meanwhile, was complaining to leaders in Europe that Mr. Bush was slowing momentum in East-West relations and dragging his feet on proposals to cut conventional arms in Europe.

Gradually, Mr. Bush's attitude began to change. He was profoundly moved by Mr. Gorbachev's willingness to allow the

communist empire in Eastern Europe to collapse.

"I think he deserves new thinking," Mr. Bush told North American Treaty Organisation leaders in 1989. "It absolutely mandates new thinking."

Amid storm gales in the Mediterranean, Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev held their first summit aboard a ship at Malta in December 1989. The mood was somewhat stiff. Seven months later, the two leaders met again, this time in Washington and at the nearby presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland.

Mr. Gorbachev pitched horseshoes with Mr. Bush at Camp David and hit a ringer with his first throw. White House officials say the informal meeting was an important icebreaker and put the two leaders on a first-name basis. Four months later, the two leaders met again, this time to forge an alliance in the Gulf crisis.

"What he (Gorbachev) gets out of this summit is the international spotlight," said Michael Mandelbaum of the Council on Foreign Relations.

"What he gets is the chance to demonstrate — or at least to argue to his own people — that he continues to be indispensable, if only because he is their passport to the rest of the world. He is the man who can deal with the West and with Mr. Bush," Mr. Mandelbaum said.

"And he also reminds people, not just in the West but in his own country, that there is still business to be done that can be best done by the centre, business having to do with arms control," Mr. Mandelbaum said.

"They have an easy, relaxed relationship with each other and they talk really with pretty complete frankness," said Brent Scowcroft, the president's national security adviser. "It has become that way progressively since they have been meeting."

Mr. Scowcroft continued, "in terms of personal interaction, the relationship is really quite good."

It remains so despite occasional setbacks — such as last winter's military crackdown in the Baltics or Soviet attempts to sidestep the limits of already-ratified arms agreements. Aside from some muted criticism, Mr. Bush has been reluctant to do anything that

would offend any material aid, ordinary Ukrainians are optimistic his trip will bring them more than just fresh paint and newly filled potholes.

Although Mr. Bush is not offering any material aid, ordinary Ukrainians are optimistic his trip will bring them more than just fresh paint and newly filled potholes.

Kiev, a city of more than 2.5

million people, lost much of its spirit in the accident. Residents say they used to be able to trade a U.S. dollar for a similar one anywhere in the Soviet Union, including Moscow or Leningrad.

"We are so poor. Why can't we live like Americans? Why can't we have private property?" Klavdi Sergeyev, 78, said Sunday.

"I think Mr. Bush will support us."

Stealing a page from Mr. Gorbachev's book, Mr. Bush plans to move freely through Kiev and mingle with crowds. Teams of U.S. Secret Service agents arrived last week to provide security.

The president will see an ancient and beautiful city, graced by the gentle curves and high banks of the Dnieper River.

Chestnut and cherry trees line Kiev's broad avenues, and it is renowned for its onion-domed churches — particularly the 11th century St. Sophia's Cathedral, which Mr. Bush may visit.

Kiev is called the "Mother of Russia" because Russian civilisation traces its roots back to the Kievan princes who conquered neighbouring tribes and introduced Christianity in the 10th century.

Mr. Bush flies to Kiev Thursday after two days of meetings with Mr. Gorbachev. He plans only a brief visit, but it is an important gesture to a republic that could determine the fate of these plans.

The Ukrainian parliament is divided on whether to sign Mr. Gorbachev's proposed union treaty and has put off a vote until fall. If the Ukraine joins the Baltics, Georgia, Armenia and Moldavia in rejecting the treaty, Mr. Gorbachev's chances of holding the country together will sink.

The official claim that only 31 or 32 people died in the disaster is widely disputed in the Ukraine. Chernobyl helped give rise to the Ukrainian independence movement by reinforcing a widespread belief among the republic's 52 million people that the Kremlin cares little about their lives.

Kiev, a city of more than 2.5



James Baker

Baker praises Mongolian democratic reforms

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Mongolia Monday promising to rally international aid for the country that is teetering on the brink of economic collapse after starting political and economic reforms.

"We will continue to try and encourage international support for Mongolia's reform efforts," Mr. Baker told reporters before leaving Ulan Bator for Moscow and the U.S.-Soviet summit.

"I am pleased to see that the Mongolian leadership as well as the opposition appears to be committed to continuing the process of political and economic reform," he said.

Mr. Baker, who arrived in Ulan Bator Thursday, became the first Western statesman to give a speech to Mongolia's parliament and made a private trip to the south Gobi Desert to observe nomadic camel herders and exotic wildlife.

In his speech Friday, Mr. Baker offered \$2.4 million in technical assistance this year and \$4 million next year.

He said he would ask U.S. Congress to approve \$10 million in additional aid to help to tide Mongolia over its current economic straits.

"I can only urge you to stay the course," Mr. Baker told the joint session of parliament.

Mongolia's minister of foreign relations, Tserenpilay Gombosuren, said he was very pleased with Mr. Baker's visit.

"Mr. Baker's visit was successful, the development of relations is an extremely important task of our new foreign policy," he told reporters Monday.

"Our country is facing serious economic problems. It is very important for us that Mr. Baker gave his assurances to speed up U.S. help to Mongolia and to intensify efforts at engendering the help and support of international financial and economic institutions," Mr. Gombosuren said.

Meanwhile workmen are hanging banners, mowing grass, repaving roads and painting buildings to spruce up the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, for the first visit by an American president to the Soviet heartland.

But a more significant transformation already has taken place. Thousands of signs on stores and offices have changed from Russian to Ukrainian in the past year as independence sentiment has grown in the second largest Soviet republic.

Many people think the goodwill from Mr. Bush gives Mr. Gorbachev prestige at home, where his countrymen blame him for food shortages, rising unemployment and a generally dismal economic plight.

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Kiev, a city of more than 2.5

Armenian government calls its men to arms

MOSCOW (R) — Separatist Armenia accused Soviet forces and the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan of conducting an undeclared war against it and urged volunteers possessing weapons to report for duty, Soviet News Agency (TASS) has said.

While tensions rose in the southern republics, ethnic Armenians who want to transfer to Armenian rule and hundreds of people have been killed in clashes in and around the territory and on the Azərbaycan-Armenian border.

Nagorno-Karabakh is populated largely by Armenians who want to transfer to Armenian rule and hundreds of people have been killed in clashes in and around the territory and on the Azərbaycan-Armenian border.

Armenia says Azerbaijani forces have been systematically driving Armenian minorities out of Nagorno-Karabakh with the help of Soviet Interior Ministry troops.

"Now the Soviet forces have promised to leave. We can handle our own defense," Mr. Arzumanyan said.

The Defense Department in the Baltic Republic of Lithuania, which like Armenia is seeking independence from Moscow, said elite Soviet Omon Police raided a customs post set up by the nationalist